



Quick Notes

from the Idaho Office of Highway Safety

August 22, 2011

Idaho Transportation Department - PO Box 7129 – Boise, ID 83707-1129
P: (208) 334-8100 F: (208) 334-4430 - - www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs

2011 Fatalities on Idaho Roads = 81*

General Message from the Highway Safety Manager

Howdy Highway Safety Partners:

This week I have been asked to participate in speed management discussions on a national level and how presenting this concept would benefit highway safety in enforcement, education, and engineering. I appreciate this opportunity and look forward to this participation. I believe that a cultural recognition and change is key.

It got me to thinking about speed management and in particular speed limits and how they are set on Idaho highways. Many have asked how are speed limits set? That is a good question. Please forgive me as I will now slip on my engineering hat, but engineering it is one of our “4E’s” that will help us along in eliminating (I never use the word reduce) death on Idaho’s highways. So how are speed limits set? Here goes:

Why do we have speed limits?

Speed limits are intended to supplement the drivers' judgment in determining what a reasonable speed is for a particular section of road. Limits are imposed to assist Idaho law enforcement. They encourage better traffic flow by reducing the variances in speed.

Speed limits that reflect the behavior of the majority of motorists are found to be successful. Speed limits that are set arbitrarily low restrict the majority of drivers, encourage wholesale violations, lack public support, and generally fail to produce desirable changes in driving behavior.

How are speed limits determined?

Speed limits are determined by a combination of two investigations known as a speed study. These two investigations involve engineering and traffic analysis.

The engineering analysis uses the 85th percentile speed of free flowing traffic for determining a safe and reasonable speed for a given road section. According to research, drivers feel comfortable driving at the 85th percentile speed and that accident involvement is the lowest within that 85 percent. This reflects the safe speed as determined by a large majority of drivers. The engineering investigation also involves determining the design of the road and its immediate environment. Engineers analyze such items as lane width, pavement type and general condition of the road. They also look at terrain, parking conditions, residential development along the road and the number, width and types of entrances and intersecting streets.

The traffic investigation involves gathering and analyzing traffic related data such as traffic volumes, crash frequency, and the effect of traffic control devices such as stoplights and stop signs.

Does reducing a speed limit result in safer driving conditions?

Not necessarily. Reducing the limit below the warranted speed can actually be hazardous and unsafe. Studies have shown that merely reducing a speed limit has little effect on the speed at which motorists will travel. Furthermore, no published research findings have established any direct relationship between posted speed limits and crash frequency. Unless a heavy law enforcement effort is undertaken, motorists will travel at speeds they feel comfortable.

When determining speed limits, engineers attempt to set a realistic limit that the majority of drivers will obey and that

can be reasonably enforced. Of course a driver's good use of judgment and common sense is also required for safe driving. Drivers must recognize that changing weather and road surface conditions will require changes in the speed at which they travel. This is where the partnership of enforcement, education and emergency response helps us on the trek to eliminate death and serious injury on all of Idaho's roadways.

Whew!! If you made it through all that then my hat is off to you. Speed zones (and the management of these zones) are important and it really takes effort on all to be effective.

Thanks for all you do in keeping our highways safe. Talk to you next week.

Take Care.

Brent Jennings, PE
Highway Safety Manager

Motorcycle Safety



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Idaho *STAR* Reports Motorcycle Crashes Trending Downward in 2011

Data indicates safer riding season to date with reduced crash and fatality numbers

Boise, IDAHO, August 25, 2011 – [Idaho *STAR*](#), the state's motorcycle rider-training program, reported a reduction in motorcycle crashes and fatalities on Idaho roadways. The initial numbers for 2011 appear to be substantially lower in comparison to years prior, based on unofficial first and second quarter data from the Office of Highway Safety. This preliminary data shows that crashes involving motorcyclists January through June are down 30% this year from the 2006-2010 average and fatalities are down by 68% over the same time period.

"Both the slow economy and the long, cold winter this year are likely factors in the decrease, but we also believe that Idaho riders and drivers are doing a better job at preventing crashes," said Stacey "Ax" Axmaker, Idaho ***STAR*** Motorcycle Safety Program Director. "As rider training continues to be available across the state and overall awareness of motorcyclists keeps improving, we hope to see this trend continue. We want all the riders of Idaho to make it home safe and sound to their loved ones after every ride."

The Idaho ***STAR*** Program was established in 1995 to reduce crashes and fatalities involving motorcyclists. ***STAR*** provides training for all levels of experience and ability, from people just thinking about riding a motorcycle, all the way up to veteran street riders. A review of more than 4,000 motorcycle crashes from 1996 through 2006 indicated that ***STAR*** training is associated with a 71% reduced crash risk and an 81% reduction in the risk of a fatal crash.

"Strong winds were the primary cause of my crash a number of years ago, but if my passenger and I had both gone through training beforehand I believe we could have stayed on center and avoided a pretty serious crash," said Ed Shea, current rider and Idaho ***STAR*** training graduate. "***STAR*** does a great job making riders focus on the basics so they know what to do in the moment of truth and to avoid the situations that lead to crashes."

Beyond traditional training Idaho **STAR** also actively shares insights and tips to help lower rider crash and injury risk with rider organizations, through online channels and at several community events across the state. Some Idaho **STAR**-recommended tips include:

- Learn and practice riding skills – especially cornering and emergency braking
- Keep looking well ahead so you can see hazards early enough to respond to them
- In corners, turn your head and look all the way through
- Dress to survive a crash – a jacket, boots, riding pants, gloves, and a helmet can mean the difference between walking away from a crash and being carried away
- Ride sober – drinking and riding is a deadly combination

Idaho **STAR** will continue to monitor key rider data throughout the riding season and will share results as information becomes available.

About Idaho STAR

The Idaho **STAR** Motorcycle Safety Program began rider training in 1995. **STAR** is an Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education program and is accredited by the National Association of State Motorcycle Safety Administrators (SMSA). **STAR** training is associated with a 71% reduced crash risk and an 81% reduction in the risk of a fatal crash. **STAR** provides courses for all levels of riders, taught by Idaho certified instructors. www.idahostar.org 1-888-280-7878

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IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY - Fatalities By the Month*

July 2011

			TOTALS			CUMULATIVE TOTALS		
			3-Yr Average			3-Yr Cum. Average (08,09,10)		
			(08,09,10)			(08,09,10)		
2008	2009	MONTH	AVERAGE	2010	2011	AVERAGE	2010	2011
19	11	JANUARY	13	8	6	13	8	6
8	17	FEBRUARY	11	7	3	23	15	9
18	17	MARCH	17	15	8	40	30	17
16	17	APRIL	15	11	14	55	41	31
30	18	MAY	21	16	12	76	57	43
23	12	JUNE	18	19	18	94	76	61
18	26	JULY	23	26	15	117	102	76
21	29	AUGUST	26	29		144	131	
22	29	SEPTEMBER	26	28		170	159	
21	17	OCTOBER	22	28		192	187	
19	19	NOVEMBER	18	17		210	204	
17	14	DECEMBER	12	5		222	209	
232	226	YEAR TO DATE	222	209	76			

*Data limitations: This report is based on information provided by law enforcement agencies on crashes resulting in a death that occurs within 30 days of the crash.

Totals of this report are the number of persons killed. Averages are rounded.

Crash Reporting - elmpact 101 and elmpact 4.0 training classes

Below is a list of scheduled classes for the updated elmpact crash reporting program. **If you would like to host training at your agency please contact** or Kelly Campbell (208) 334-8105 kelly.campbell@itd.idaho.gov or Carroll Dodd (208) 334-4476 carroll.dodd@itd.idaho.gov.

EIMPACT 101 - This course is designed for new officers, new record personnel and those that have not used elmpact. This course will provide a comprehensive understanding of elmpact, including how the information is used after it is received.

EIMPACT 4.0 - This course is designed for approving officers, veteran officers, elmpact administrators and/or records personnel who have used elmpact in the past. This course will provide information regarding the new updates including how the program has improved.

eIMPACT TRAINING SCHEDULE

Course	Date	Time	Location
4.0	Aug. 23 - Tuesday	8:30-11:30 am	ISP Training Classroom A, 700 S. Stratford Dr., Meridian, ID 83642
101	Aug. 24 - Wednesday	8am-noon	Orofino, Idaho
4.0	Aug. 24 - Wednesday	1- 4 pm	Orofino, Idaho
101	Aug. 24 - Wednesday	8 am-noon	Nampa PD – Nampa Civic Center – Casler North 311 3 rd S. Nampa, Id 83650
4.0	Aug. 25 - Thursday	8:30-11:30 am	Nampa PD – Nampa Civic Center – Casler North 311 3 rd S. Nampa, Id 83650
101	Aug. 29 - Thursday	1 – 5 pm	Caldwell PD, 110 South 5th Avenue, Caldwell, ID 83605
4.0	Aug. 29 - Thursday	6 – 9 pm	Caldwell PD, 110 South 5th Avenue, Caldwell, ID 83605
101	Aug. 31 - Wednesday	8 am-noon	McCall American Legion Hall, 216 E. Park St., McCall, ID 83628
4.0	Aug. 31 - Wednesday	1:30-4:30 pm	McCall American Legion Hall, 216 E. P ark St., McCall, ID 83628
101	Aug. 31 - Wednesday	8 am-noon	Bonner's Ferry, Idaho
4.0	Aug. 31 - Wednesday	1- 4pm	Bonner's Ferry, Idaho
4.0	Sept. 1 -Thursday	2-4pm	ISP Region 4 Training Rm., 218 W. Yakima, Jerome, ID 83338

4.0	Sep. 6 - Tuesday	1 - 4 pm	Soltman Center, Grangeville, Idaho
101	Sep. 7- Wednesday	8 am-noon	Kootenai County Sheriff, CDA, Idaho
4.0	Sep. 7- Wednesday	1- 4 pm	Kootenai County Sheriff, CDA, Idaho
4.0	Sept. 7-Wednesday	9 am-noon	Elmore CSO 2255 E. 8 th N., Mountain Home, ID 83647
101	Sept. 7-Wednesday	1-5 pm	Elmore CSO 2255 E. 8 th N., Mountain Home, ID 83647
4.0	Sept. 8 - Thursday	2-4 pm	Caribou County Fire Station, 655 E. 2 nd South, Soda Springs, ID 83276
4.0	Sept. 13 - Tuesday	1:30-4:30pm	Heyburn Police Dept., 1800 J St., Heyburn, ID 83836
101	Sept. 14 -Wednesday	8 am-noon	Heyburn Police Dept., 1800 J St., Heyburn, ID 83836
4.0	Sept. 14 -Wednesday	5 – 8 pm	Oneida CSO, 10 Court St., Malad, ID 83252



The Labor Day Impaired Mobilization will begin August 26 and run through September 6. If your agency had planned to participate but did not receive a funding authorization letter, please contact Kevin Bechen at kevin.bechen@itd.idaho.gov.

News Release

Dave Carlson

Director of Public & Government Affairs

August 22, 2011

For Immediate Release

IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL ZONE SAFE FOR RETURNING STUDENTS?

Annual AAA School's Open - Drive Safely campaign takes aim at risky behaviors



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7155 W. Denton St.
Boise, ID 83704
208-342-9391
www.AAA.com



BOISE - Danger may be just around corner as thousands of Idaho school-age children gear up for the 2011-2012 school year, and AAA reminds motorists to take notice of speed limits in school zones and to slow down and watch for children.

"Residential streets are relatively calm during the summer months," says AAA Idaho Public Affairs Director Dave Carlson. "But risks rise when these once quiet streets are suddenly filled with children returning to school each fall."

Last year, 99 percent of 212 Idaho pedestrians involved in crashes were injured, and 97 of those crashes (46 percent) involved pedestrians 19 and younger. AAA Idaho said 26 percent of last year's injury and fatal pedestrian crashes involved children between the ages of 4 and 14, based on traffic data collected by the Idaho Transportation Department.

According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed as compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling just 10 mph faster.

"School-age children face greater risks due to their inexperience on roadways and their risk-taking behavior," Carlson said.

"That's why it is so important for motorists and students to be on the lookout for each other, especially during the first few weeks of school."

Despite a 5 percent drop in the number of overall crashes involving bikes, the state also recorded four fatalities and a total of 43 serious injuries involving bicyclists. Among the 349 bicyclists involved in crashes in 2010, 18 percent were between the ages of 4 and 14.

As part of AAA's annual *School's Open — Drive Carefully* campaign, AAA offers tips to help reduce the number of school related pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and injuries.

- **Ditch distractions.** Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing.
- **Stay alert.** Don't rush into and out of driveways. Expect pedestrians on the sidewalks and bicyclists just about everywhere, but especially around schools.
- **Stop at all stop signs.** Obvious, yes, but research shows that more than one third of drivers roll through stop signs in their own neighborhoods.
- **Watch for bikes.** Children on bicycles are often unpredictable; expect the unexpected.
- **Brake for busses.** It may be tempting to drive around a stopped school bus, but it's dangerous and it's against the law.
- **Plan ahead.** Leave early for your destination and build in extra time for congestion. Modify your route, if possible, to avoid school zones.
- **Look for Safety Patrollers.** Many are AAA patrollers at 31,000 schools across the country.

- **Slow down.** It's the most obvious way to see what's going on around you.

AAA launched its first *School's Open – Drive Carefully* campaign in 1946 and has been spreading that message since then.

In addition to the *School's Open – Drive Carefully* campaign, AAA has also teamed up with [Richard Scarry's Busytown Mysteries](#) to help keep children safe.

"We encourage parents to sit down and work out a plan for the safest route to school," Carlson said. "Then give your kids some confidence by practicing the route before school starts or sometime during the first few weeks of the school year."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you would like to add an event to the calendar, please send an e-mail with the event details to lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov

Date	Event Description
Aug. 15, 2011	PURCHASE EQUIPMENT – If you have earned incentive dollars this fiscal year, this is the recommended deadline for the purchase of equipment.
Aug. 16, 2011	Alive at 25 Class , Rexburg City Hall, Rexburg http://aliveat25.us/id/find-a-course
Aug. 15-19, 2011	Traffic Records Assessment , Boise
Aug. 19-21, 2011	State Motorcycle Safety Administrators (SMSA) Conference , Des Moines, IA
Aug. 19-28, 2011	2011 Western Idaho Fair , Garden City. Still need volunteer, contact ping.yerby@itd.idaho.gov
Aug. 22, 2011	Alive at 25 Class , Boise Police Dept., Boise http://aliveat25.us/id/find-a-course
Aug. 27, 2011	Alive at 25 Class , Cassia County Sheriff's Office, Burley http://aliveat25.us/id/find-a-course
Aug. 26-Sept. 6, 2011	IMPAIRED DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Kevin Bechen, OHS GCO, kevin.bechen@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-4467
Sep. 12, 2011	Alive at 25 Class , Mountain Home High School, Mountain Home http://aliveat25.us/id/find-a-course
Sep. 17, 2011	Alive at 25 Class , Kootenai County Fire Station #2, Post Falls http://aliveat25.us/id/find-a-course
Sep 18-24, 2011	CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK , National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
Oct. 1, 2011	First Day of Fiscal Financial Year 2012
June 14-16, 2012	Lifesavers Conference , Orlando, Florida, www.lifesaversconference.org
July 19-20, 2012	Northwest Alcohol Conference , Boise, Idaho www.northwestalcoholconference.org

Quick Reference Guide – click on the topic to go directly to website.

[OHS](#), Office of Highway Safety

[ITD](#), Idaho Transportation Department

[NHTSA](#), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[FHWA](#), Federal Highway Administration

[2010 Idaho Crash Report](#)

Program Area	Idaho State Links	Federal Links
Impaired Driving		http://www.nhtsa.gov/Impaired
Distracted Driving	http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/DistractedDriving.htm	http://distracted.gov/
Teen Drivers	http://www.idahoteendriving.org/	http://www.nhtsa.gov/Teen-Drivers
Bike & Pedestrian Safety	http://www.itd.idaho.gov/bike_ped/index_new2.htm	http://www.nhtsa.gov/Pedestrians http://www.nhtsa.gov/Bicycles
Seat Belt Safety	http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/ClickIt/ClickIt2.htm	http://www.nhtsa.gov/Driving+Safety/Occupant+Protection
Child Passenger Safety	http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/ChildSafety/index.html	http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS
Aggressive Driving		http://www.nhtsa.gov/Aggressive
Motorcycles		http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles

